



U.S. Department of Justice  
United States Attorney  
District of Kansas

## NEWS RELEASE

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### WICHITA COUPLE SENTENCED FOR BANK ROBBERY

WICHITA, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **John R. Harms, 42, and Tywana K. Harms, 37, husband and wife, Wichita, Kansas, were sentenced today by U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Marten. John Harms was sentenced to 63 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by two years of supervised release, and ordered to pay \$7,854.00 in restitution. Tywana Harms was sentenced to 37 months in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by two years of supervised release and ordered to pay \$7,854.00 in restitution.**

Melgren said that John and Tywana Harms each entered a guilty plea on June 8, 2004, to one count of bank robbery and aiding and abetting a bank robbery.

Melgren stated that John and Tywana Harms admitted at their pleas that on March 30, 2004, John Harms entered the Commerce Bank, 512 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Garden City, Kansas, dressed in women's clothing, displayed what appeared to be a handgun but was actually a BB gun, and demanded money. The bank employees complied with his demands and John Harms left the bank with in excess of \$2,000. Tywana Harms knew that John Harms intended to rob the bank, she waited for him at a designated located in her car and when he returned, she drove him away from the scene.

Melgren said that John and Tywana Harms were stopped for a traffic violation on March 31, 2004, by the Wichita Police Department and officers found a money wrapper from Commerce Bank and a pile of cash on the floor of the car.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Garden City Police Department, the Wichita Police Department and the FBI in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Metzger in this prosecution.